

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector, comprising:

a housing (20) connectable with a mating housing (10) mounted on a panel (P), the housing (20) including a terminal-accommodating portion (21) for accommodating terminal fittings (29) and a jaw (22) bulging out from an outer peripheral surface of the terminal-accommodating portion (21), the jaw (22) having a front surface for facing the panel (P) substantially in parallel;

a grommet (23) attached to the jaw (22) and overlying a portion of the front surface of the jaw (22) for closely contacting the panel (P); and

at least one protrusion (40; 45) on the jaw (22) and at least partly surrounding the terminal-accommodating portion (21).

2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the protrusion (40) is on the front surface of the jaw (22) inwardly from the grommet (23).

3. The connector of claim 2, wherein the jaw (22) has different length and width dimensions, the protrusion (40) including an annular portion (41) substantially surrounding the terminal-accommodating portion (21), and crossing portions (42) extending in from longer sides of the annular portion (41).

4. The connector of claim 1, wherein a projecting distance of the protrusion (40) is sufficiently short to avoid interference with a receptacle (12) of the mating housing (10) when the housing (20) is connected with the mating housing (10).

5. The connector of claim 1, wherein the jaw (22) has a rear surface for facing away from the panel (P), the at least one protrusion (40, 45) comprising protrusions formed on both the front and rear surfaces of the jaw (22).

6. The connector of claim 5, wherein the two protrusions (40, 45) are provided substantially symmetrically on the jaw (22).

7. The connector of claim 1, wherein the at least one protrusion (45) comprises at least one substantially U-shaped outer portion (46) arranged substantially parallel to the outer peripheral wall of the terminal-accommodating portion (21).

8. The connector of claim 7, further comprising an inner wall (60) extending continuously rearwardly from the terminal-accommodating portion (21), and couplings (47) extending between the outer portion (46) and the inner wall (60) at specified intervals.

9. A connector assembly comprising the connector of claim 1 and a mating connector having a mating housing (10) for mounting on a panel (P).

10. The connector assembly of claim 9, wherein a lock arm (30) is provided on one of the housings (20, 10) to form an inertial locking means by temporarily contacting an engaging portion (50) thereby temporarily restricting connection of the housings (10, 20), wherein the contact state is canceled by pushing at least one of the housing (10) and the mating connector housing (10) with a force exceeding a connection resistance.